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## Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT Military Production Urgencies System

- References: (a) DOD Instruction S-4410.3, Policies and Procedures for Implementing Approved Military Urgency Determinations, 13 July 1954
- (b) DOD Directive 5126.1, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply and Logistics), 13 August 1953

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Directive is to establish a Department of Defense Military Production Urgencies System which will provide authoritative information for guidance as to the relative urgency of desired military production. This Directive establishes the framework for policies and general procedures to generate such information with respect to relative urgencies of procurement, and of proposed procurement to support the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan (JSCP) under mobilization conditions. To satisfy this purpose, the System will comprise, in addition to the policies and procedures, a Military Production Master Urgency List and specific urgency lists as described in III below, to expedite deliveries, as needed, of supporting resources.

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### II. NEED FOR THE SYSTEM

A. General - The determination of relative urgency of desired production has to be made when conflicts for industrial resources\* arise. The Military Production Urgencies System is designed to provide for the orderly flow to, and evaluation by, responsible officials, of data that is necessary for intelligent decision in resolving such conflicts. The System is needed for general guidance to prevent as many conflicts as possible. The military departments are responsible for

\* Industrial resources: facilities including machine tools, other production equipment, materials, components, industrial manpower.

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**\*\* The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics) as a \*\***  
parallel responsibility for the whole Department of Defense,  
assigned in Department of Defense Directive 5126.1.

1. To advise the Secretary of Defense of the most essential military end items required from production, to include required rates or totals.
2. To provide the basis for reporting on pre M-Day progress of industrial production planning\* for these end items.
3. To emphasize production planning for such items at all echelons.
4. To aid the Office of the Secretary of Defense in settling unresolved interdepartmental conflicts relating to procurement and production planning.
5. To serve as one element in determining the allocation and distribution of Department of Defense industrial mobilization funds, and supporting industrial resources.
6. To aid the Department of Defense member of the Department of Commerce Industrial Evaluation Board in rating industrial facilities from a security standpoint.
7. To indicate the approved Department of Defense urgency standing to the assigned procuring department, for proper scheduling to meet the using department's requirements.

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C. Post M-Day - Specific post M-Day uses of the Military Production Urgencies System are:

1. To enable the Secretary of Defense to inform the appropriate civilian control agencies of the military end items which require special emphasis.
2. To provide the basis for reporting procurement and production status of the most essential military end items.
3. To emphasize procurement and production scheduling for such military end items by all echelons.
4. To guide preparation of specific urgency lists for the time-phased demands of supporting industrial resources.
5. To indicate the approved Department of Defense urgency standing to the assigned procuring department, for proper scheduling to meet the using department's requirements.
6. To guide the realignment and restoration of productive capacity to meet military requirements in the event of sabotage, bomb damage, etc.
7. To serve as a guide in processing special priority assistance requests through military and civilian control agency channels.
8. To aid the Office of the Secretary of Defense in settling interdepartmental conflicts for industrial resources that cannot be resolved by the military departments concerned.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM

A. General - The Military Production Urgencies System will comprise a number of related policies and procedures to satisfy the purpose and meet the pre and post M-Day needs for which it is established. The Urgency System will include a Military Production Master Urgency List and specific urgency lists as needed. Department of Defense Instructions will be issued to provide the specific rules for each list. (Allocation of finished munitions items is a Joint Chiefs of Staff function, and is not a subject of this System.)

**B. Military Production Master Urgency List - The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics) is responsible for recommending to the Secretary of Defense the relative urgency of the various segments of the military procurement program. A list of a relatively few essential military end items required from production will provide the basis for establishing the relative urgency of competing needs for production resources. This list will be known as the Military Production Master Urgency List (MPMUL). Until M-Day, it will consist of the most essential end items ready for and needed from production to carry out the assigned objectives of the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan (JSCP); in the event of mobilization, items will be arranged in the order of their military importance to support revised plans.**

1. Items nominated for this list will be assumed to have equal military urgency prior to M-Day.
2. After M-Day, each department will arrange its list to reflect the relative urgency of production based on actual conditions then prevailing. These department lists will be the basis for a Military Production Master Urgency List consolidated with the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A separate Department of Defense Instruction will cover the criteria, submission, approval, issuance and restrictions on distribution of the Military Production Master Urgency List.
3. The MPMUL will be used as a general guide in the development of any specific urgency list. If, for example, the designated civilian control agency stops all but essential construction, and therefore wants a list of contractor plant expansions in order of priority, and the required capacity for the first four items on the Military Production Master Urgency List is in being, all other things being equal, the necessary capacity expansion for the number five item would be first on the "Industrial Construction Project List".

**C. Specific Urgency Lists - The Military Production Urgencies System includes provision for the establishment of specific urgency lists, such as those which follow, for specific resources, to be developed as needed.**


1. Privately-Owned Industrial Construction Project List: This specific list will consist of one-time construction projects such as contractors' plant expansions necessary to meet approved production schedules for military requirements.

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2. Special Assistance (Expediting) List: This specific list will guide allocation and deliveries, in case of shortage or conflict, of production materials and production equipment (other than those items covered by the Business and Defense Services Administration's metalworking machines order - BDSA M-41) to important procurement items, R&D projects, construction projects, etc., which are experiencing or anticipate production difficulties. (Department of Defense Instruction S-4410.3, which contains such a list, will remain in full force and effect until reissued within the framework established by this Directive.) All requests for special assistance to eliminate bottlenecks in the production of MPMUL items will be processed as having equal production urgency in the highest category.
3. Numerical and Alphabetical Preference List: This specific list will guide the distribution of metalworking machines to defense contractors and contracts. Since this is a joint civilian control agency - Department of Defense procedure, the instructions would be within the limitations imposed by such control agency. (Priorities and Allocations Manual, Section 8-1.1, contains the procedure currently in operation, and will remain effective so long as BDSA Order M-41 requires the Department of Defense to submit such a list.)
4. The Military Production Urgencies System will also serve as the basis for generating specific lists for distribution of other resources such as industrial manpower, transportation or utilities services, etc., should that be necessary.

D. Canadian requirements for defense will be given parity treatment. This will be accomplished through the specific urgency lists for specific purposes.

  
Secretary of Defense